

Remarks/Arguments

This Amendment has been prepared and is being filed in response to the Office Action of August 2, 2007 regarding the above-identified U.S. Patent Application. In that Action, the Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 5, 10, 17-19, inclusive, and 21, rejected claims 7, 8, and 11-16, inclusive, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0044549 of Johansson et al., and rejected claims 1-4, inclusive, 6, 9 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,212,587 to Emerson et al.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's Action, and the cited and applied references, in view of the specification, claims and drawings in the current patent application, and by the present Amendment, proposes certain changes in the claims which are believed now to place all claims remaining in this application, on the basis of entry of this Amendment, in conditions for full and immediate formal allowance.

To begin with, applicant does not agree with the Examiner's §§ 102 and 103 rejections of the respective claims to which these rejections have been directed. In reviewing the status of this case, however, and in the interest of obtaining early allowance of certain claims, the present patent application is modified by the present Amendment to place, through various approaches of current amendments, certain ones of the originally presented claims now in conditions for full formal allowance. Claims which have been canceled by the present Amendment in order to accomplish this are to be understood to be canceled solely without prejudice.

Very specifically, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice in favor of current

amendment made claim one to include the limitations of originally presented claim 5.

Claims 2-4, inclusive, remain as original claims.

Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice in favor of current Amendments now made in claim 7 to place the limitations of originally presented claim 10 now into the content of currently amended claim 7.

Claims 8, 9 and 11 remain as original claims.

Claims 12 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 17 has been canceled without prejudice in favor of currently amended claim 14 which has been amended to insert therein the content originally presented claim 17.

Claims 15, 16, 18 and 19 have been currently amended to reflect changes made by current amendments proposed in claim 14.

Finally, claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice in favor of currently amended claim 20 which has been amended to include in its text the content of originally presented claim 21.

Accordingly, and as will be seen, with entry of the present Amendment, all claims remaining in this application, on the basis of entry of this Amendment, are in conditions for immediate formal allowance, and such favorable reconsideration of this application, and claim allowances, are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

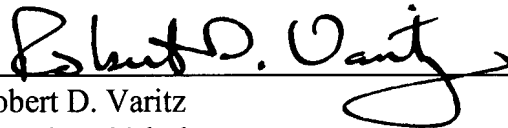
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Respectfully Submitted,

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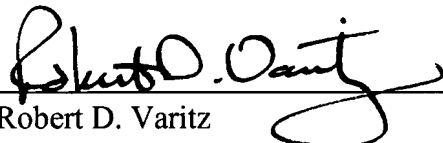
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I hereby certify that the attached Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450


Robert D. Varitz